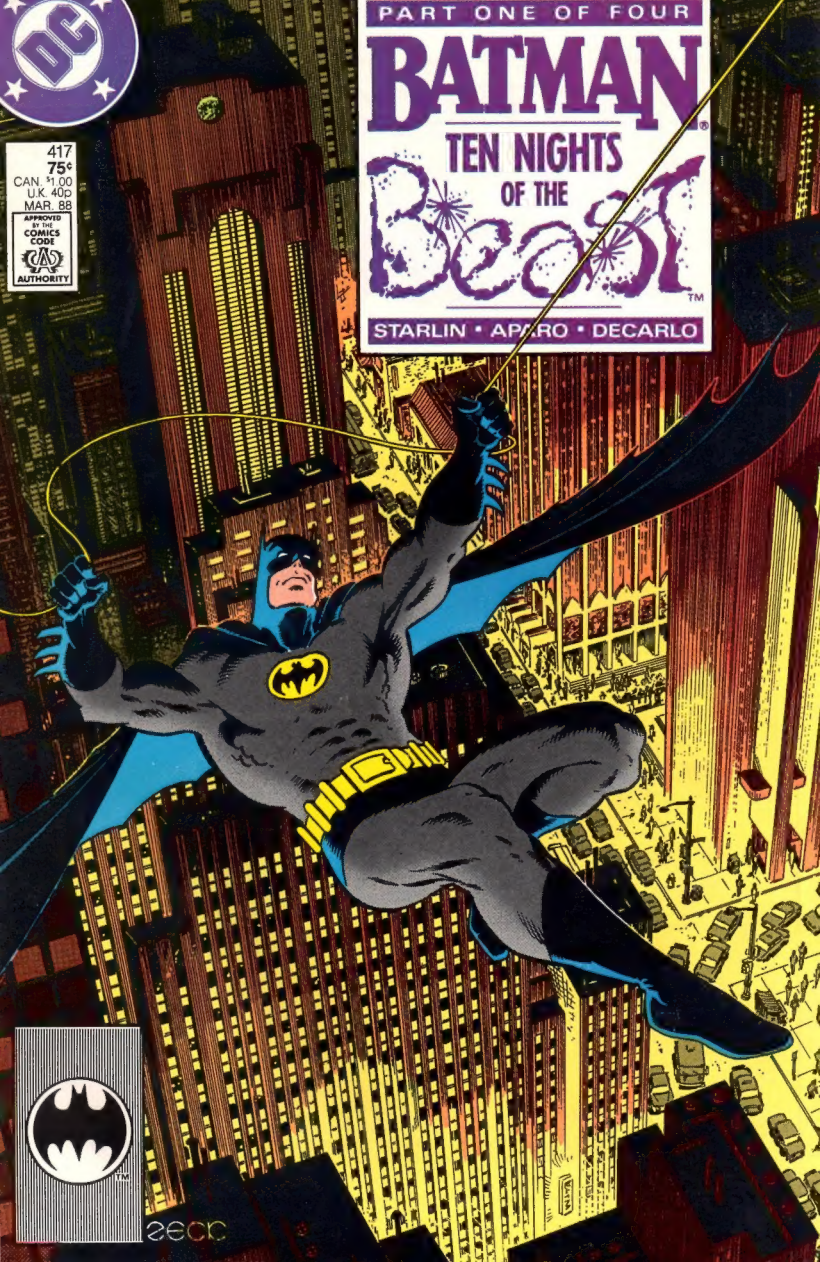
PART ONE OF FOUR
BATMAN
TEN NIGHTS OF THE Beast
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417
75¢
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MAR. 88
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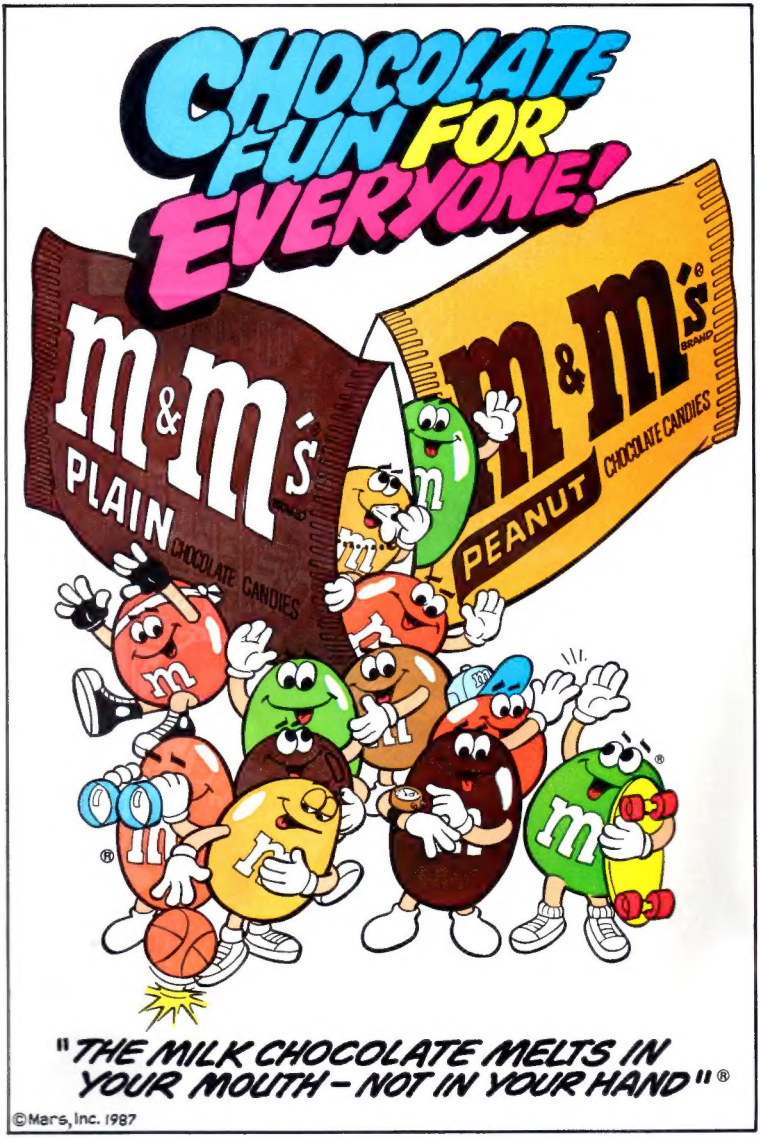
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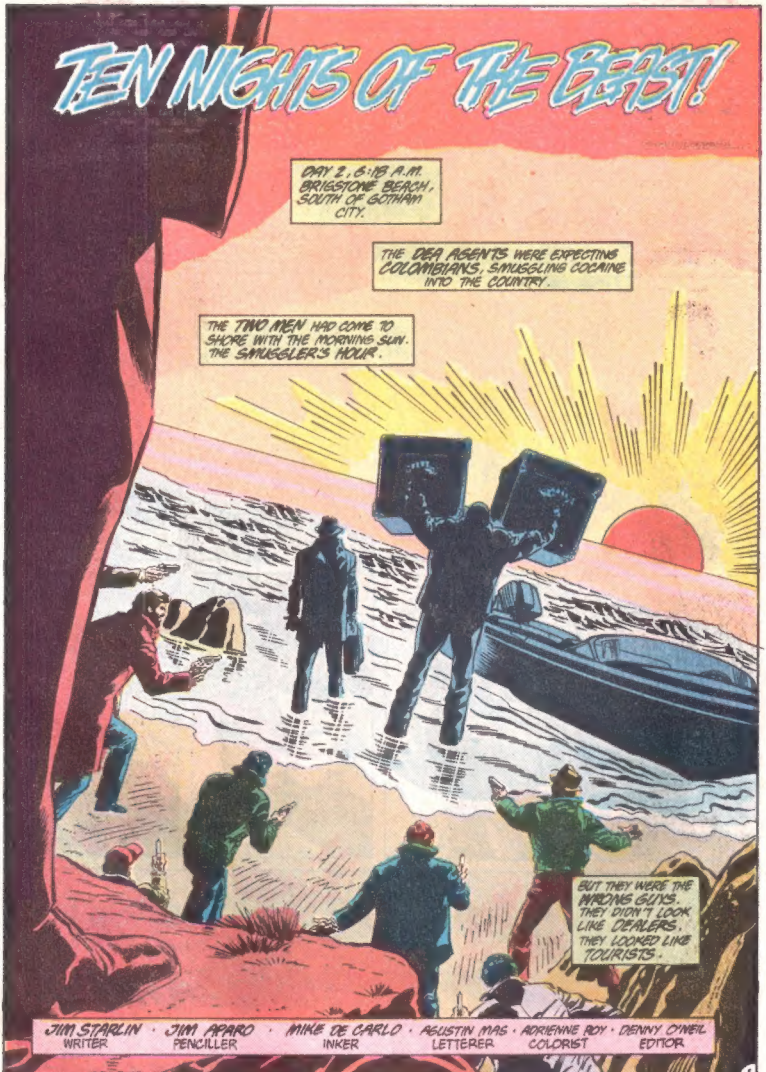
TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST!
DAY 1, 6:18 A.M. BRIGHTSTONE BEACH, SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY.
THE DEA AGENTS WERE EXPECTING COLOMBIANS, SMUGGLING COCAINE INTO THE COUNTRY.
THE TWO MEN HAD COME TO SHORE WITH THE MORNING SUN. THE SMUGGLER'S HOUR.
BUT THEY WERE THE WRONG GUYS. THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE DEALERS. THEY LOOKED LIKE TOURISTS.
JIM STARLIN · WRITER
JIM APARO · PENCILLER
MIKE DE CARLO · INKER
AGUSTIN MAS · LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY · COLORIST
DENNY O'NEIL · EDITOR

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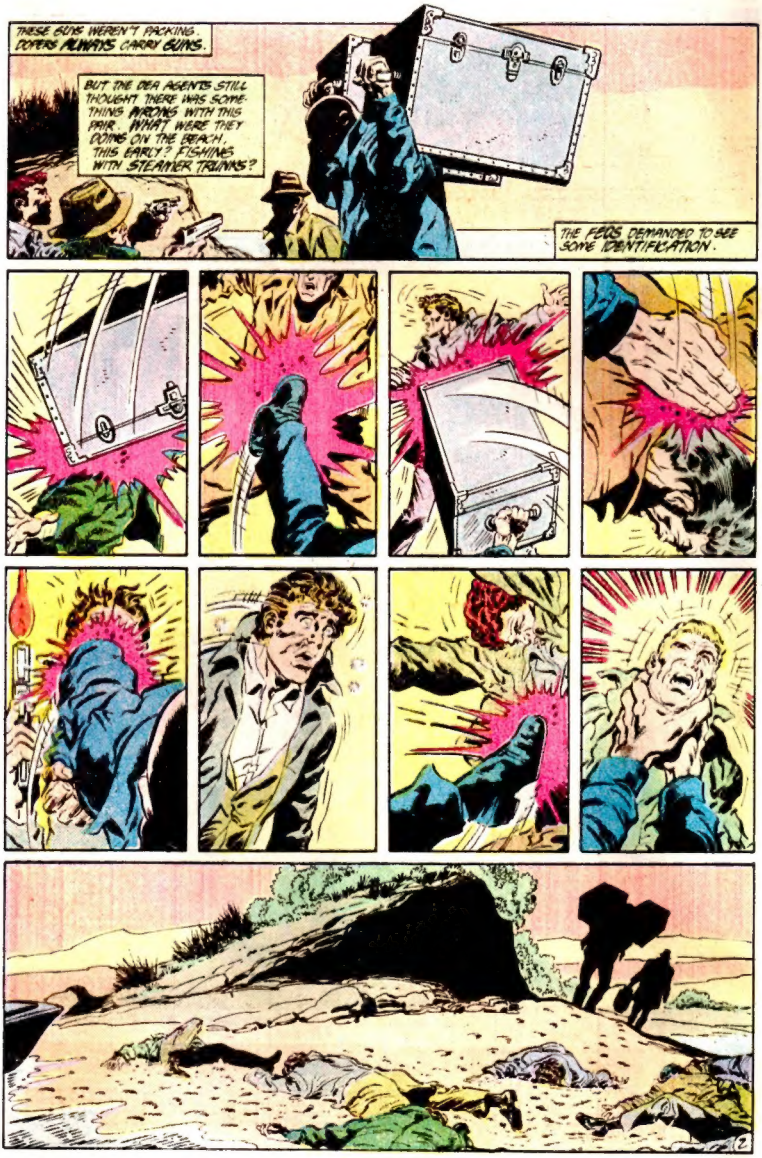
THESE GUYS WEREN'T PACKING. DOPERS ALWAYS CARRY GUNS.
BUT THE DEA AGENTS STILL THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PAIR. WHAT WERE THEY DOING ON THE BEACH, THIS EARLY? FISHING WITH STEAMER TRUNKS?
THE FEDS DEMANDED TO SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION.

KGB AGENT ANDREI YEVTUSHENKO.
DAY 1, 3:55 A.M. MOSCOW.
THE HAMMER HAD BEEN A TOP-SECRET CELL WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE KGB.
OVER THE DECADES, THE HAMMER'S POWER HAD GROWN SO VAST THAT EVEN THE HEADS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FEARED THIS CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION.
ONE OF PARTY LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S LATEST REFORMS WAS THE ABOLITION OF THIS FEARFUL GROUP.
BUT ZHORES KUNAEV, THE CHIEF DEPUTY OF THE HAMMER, REFUSED TO RELINQUISH HIS POWER GRACEFULLY.
3

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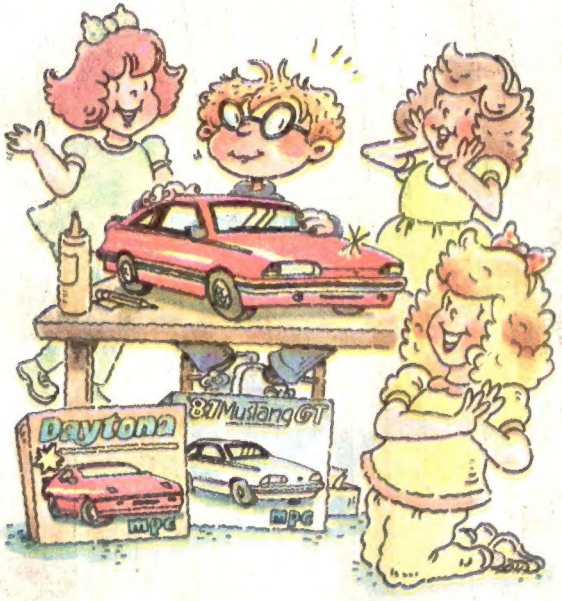
BUILD A REPUTATION.



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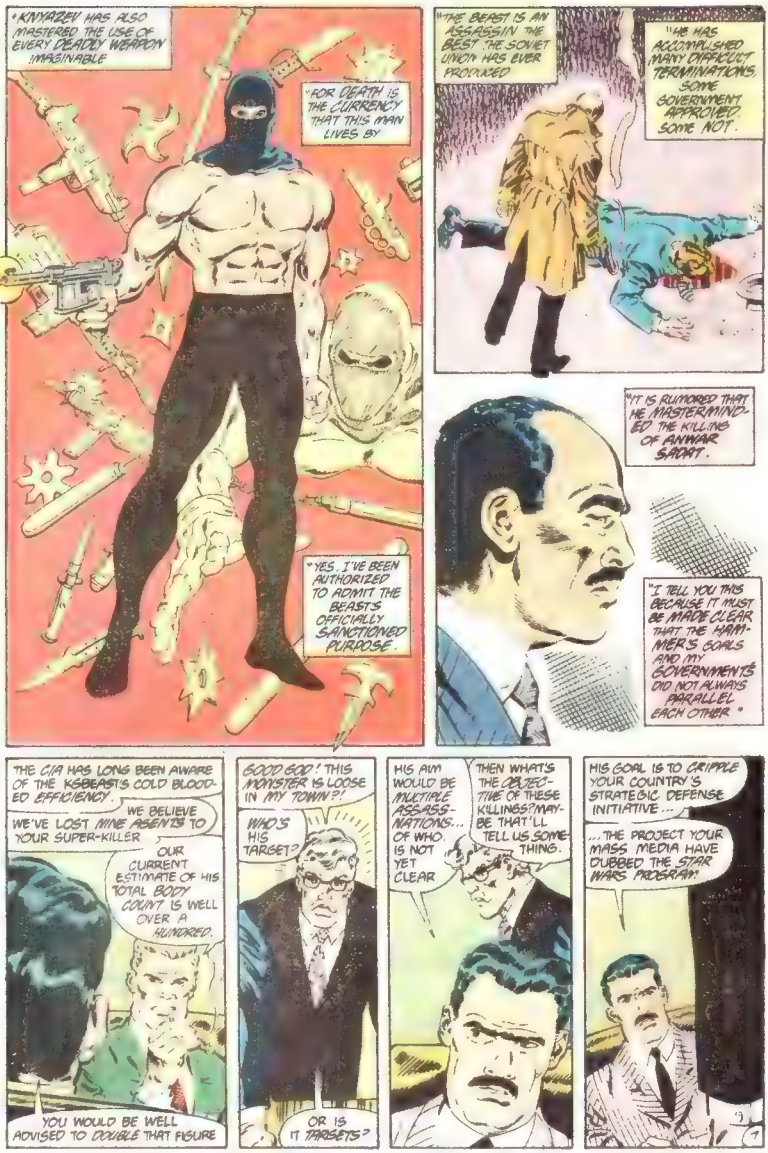
DAY 3, 10:45 P.M. GOTHAM CITY.
EVERYONE'S FINALLY HERE. SO LET'S GET STARTED.
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU BEGAIN, ANDRE!
WE HAD TO ASSUME THAT KUNAEV HAD SET OPERATION SKYWALKER INTO MOTION.
OPERATION SKYWALKER IS AN UNSANCTIONED COVERT MISSION AND ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE DISBANDING OF THE HAMMER.
MY GOVERNMENT HAS NO WISH TO SEE THIS PLAN PUT INTO ACTION.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE BEEN SENT TO WARN YOU OF IT...
...AND AID YOU IN THWARTING IT, IF I CAN.
WHAT IS THIS OPERATION SKYWALKER?
WHO'S INVOLVED IN IT?
OPERATION SKYWALKER IS REALLY ONLY ONE MAN.
HIS NAME IS ANATOLI KUNAEV. CODE-NAMED THE BEAST.
WE AT THE CIA KNOW HIM AS THE KGBEAST.
I SUSPECT HE ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY YESTERDAY MORNING.
CIA AGENT RALPH BUNDY.
DAY 2, 9:30 A.M. BRIGSTONE BEACH, SOUTH OF GOTHAM.
THE BODIES WERE DISCOVERED WHEN THE DEA AGENTS FAILED TO RETURN FROM THEIR STAKEOUT.
I WAS ON THE SCENE, POSING AS A REPORTER.
ALL EIGHT OF THEM WERE STONE COLD DEAD.
5

SO THEY WERE PART OF THE NET LOOKING FOR SOME COLOMBIAN COKE SMUGGLERS LAST NIGHT?
YEAH, WE BUSTED THE COLOMBIANS FARTHER NORTH AROUND SUNRISE.
THESE GUYS RAN INTO SOMETHING A LOT WORSE THAN DOPE SMUGGLERS.
FROM WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER FROM THE TRACKS IN THE SAND...
...ONE OF THE PERPS KILLED ALL EIGHT MEN WITH HIS BARE HANDS, WHILE HIS PARTNER CALMLY LOOKED ON.
THEN THEY STOLE THE AGENTS' WAY AND MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE.
THEN THIS BEAST HAS PROBABLY REACHED GOTHAM! ALREADY?
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I'D SAY.
I'M GOING TO NEED A PICTURE OF THIS KNYAZEV, TO CIRCULATE.
HAVEN'T GOT ONE. DON'T EVEN HAVE A GOOD DESCRIPTION.
AGENT KNYAZEV IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE SECRET AGENT.
THE IDENTITY OF THE BEAST HAS BEEN A CLOSELY GUARDED HAMMER SECRET FOR OVER A DECADE.
THIS HAS ALLOWED THE BEAST TO OPERATE IN MANY OF THE HOTTEST SPOTS ON THIS GLOBE WITH NEAR IMPUNITY.
HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY UNDERTAKEN DOZENS OF MISSIONS FROM MIAMI TO ANGOLA AND...
...DURING THAT TIME THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNEW THE BEAST'S TRUE FACE WAS KUNAEV.
"YOU MUST REALIZE THAT THE BEAST IS NOT A NORMAL HUMAN. BESIDES BEING THE MASTER OF SEVERAL MARTIAL ARTS, HIS STRENGTH IS CYBERNETICALLY ENHANCED.
"HE IS AS STRONG AS ANY FOUR HEALTHY MEN AND ABLE TO LITERALLY TEAR A PERSON IN TWO WITH HIS BARE HANDS."
6


KANYAZEV HAS ALSO MASTERED THE USE OF EVERY DEADLY WEAPON IMAGINABLE
FOR DEATH IS THE CURRENCY THAT THIS MAN LIVES BY
YES, I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ADMIT THE BEAST'S OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED PURPOSE.
THE BEAST IS AN ASSASSIN THE BEST THE SOVIET UNION HAS EVER PRODUCED
HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MANY DIFFICULT TERMINATIONS, SOME GOVERNMENT APPROVED, SOME NOT.
IT IS RUMORED THAT HE MASTERMINDED THE KILLING OF ANWAR SADAT.
I TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE HAMMER'S GOALS AND MY GOVERNMENT'S DID NOT ALWAYS PARALLEL EACH OTHER."
THE CIA HAS LONG BEEN AWARE OF THE KGBEAST'S COLD BLOODED EFFICIENCY.
WE BELIEVE WE'VE LOST NINE AGENTS TO YOUR SUPER-KILLER
OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF HIS TOTAL BODY COUNT IS WELL OVER A HUNDRED.
YOU WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO DOUBLE THAT FIGURE
GOOD GOD! THIS MONSTER IS LOOSE IN MY TOWN?!
WHO'S HIS TARGET?
OR IS IT TARGETS?
HIS AIM WOULD BE MULTIPLE ASSASSINATIONS... OF WHO IS NOT YET CLEAR
THEN WHAT'S THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE KILLINGS? MAYBE THAT'LL TELL US SOMETHING.
HIS GOAL IS TO CRIPPLE YOUR COUNTRY'S STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE...
...THE PROJECT YOUR MASS MEDIA HAVE DUBBED THE STAR WARS PROGRAM!

THE BEAST HAS ALREADY KILLED TWO PEOPLE TO GAIN THIS END.
WHAT?!
WHO?
AGT. AGENT KEITH PARKER
DAY 2, 8:30 P.M. THE HOTEL GOTHAM
MICHAEL ROBERTS WAS THE SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OF ALL SDI PROJECTS LOCATED IN THE GOTHAM AREA.
HE'D BEEN BUSY ALL DAY PREPARING FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL INSPECTION HIS FACILITIES WERE SLATED FOR THIS WEEK.
HE WAS SO EXHAUSTED THAT HE TOOK A ROOM IN TOWN FOR THE NIGHT
"ALL HE WANTED WAS A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP."
13
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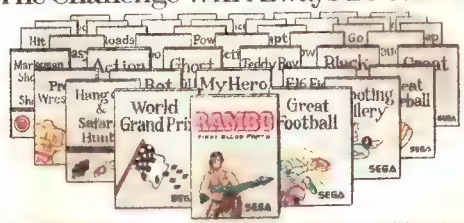

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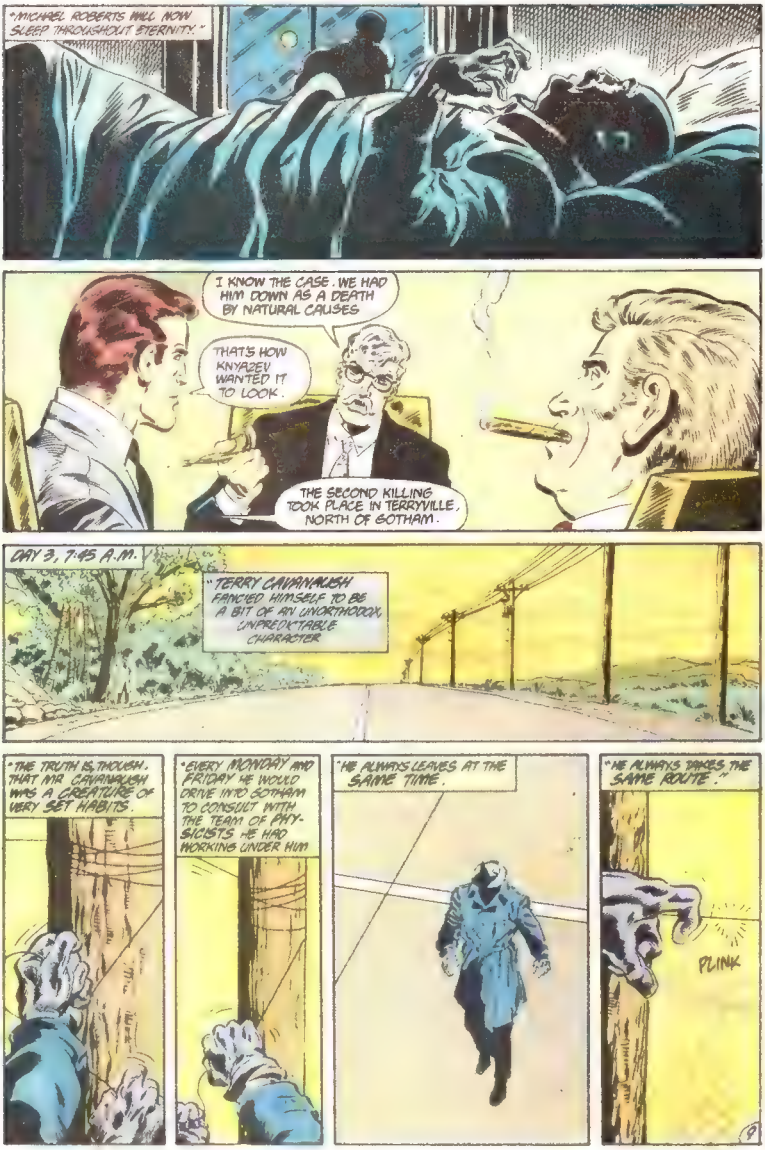
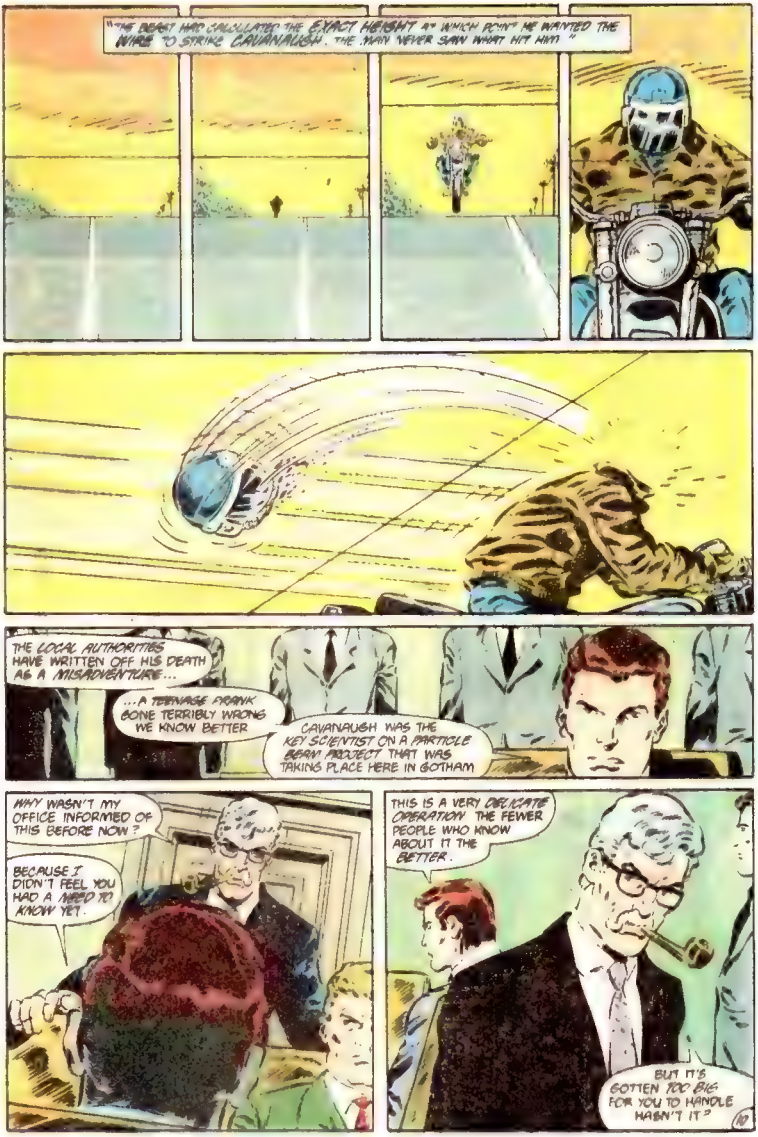

"MICHAEL ROBERTS WILL NOW SLEEP THROUGHOUT ETERNITY."
I KNOW THE CASE. WE HAD HIM DOWN AS A DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES
THAT'S HOW KNYAZEV WANTED IT TO LOOK.
THE SECOND KILLING TOOK PLACE IN TERRYVILLE, NORTH OF GOTHAM.
DAY 3, 7:45 A.M.
"TERRY CAVANAUGH FANCIED HIMSELF TO BE A BIT OF AN UNORTHODOX, UNPREDICTABLE CHARACTER.
"THE TRUTH IS, THOUGH, THAT MR CAVANAUGH WAS A CREATURE OF VERY SET HABITS.
"EVERY MONDAY AND FRIDAY HE WOULD DRIVE INTO GOTHAM TO CONSULT WITH THE TEAM OF PHYSICISTS HE HAD WORKING UNDER HIM
"HE ALWAYS LEAVES AT THE SAME TIME.
"HE ALWAYS TAKES THE SAME ROUTE."
PLINK
9


"THE BEAST HAD CALCULATED THE EXACT HEIGHT AT WHICH POINT HE WANTED THE WIRE TO STRIKE CAVANAUGH. THE MAN NEVER SAW WHAT HIT HIM."
THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE WRITTEN OFF HIS DEATH AS A MISADVENTURE...
...A TEENAGE PRANK GONE TERRIBLY WRONG WE KNOW BETTER.
CAVANAUGH WAS THE KEY SCIENTIST ON A PARTICLE BEAM PROJECT THAT WAS TAKING PLACE HERE IN GOTHAM.
WHY WASN'T MY OFFICE INFORMED OF THIS BEFORE NOW?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL YOU HAD A NEED TO KNOW YET.
THIS IS A VERY DELICATE OPERATION. THE FEWER PEOPLE WHO KNOW ABOUT IT THE BETTER.
BUT IT'S GOTTEN TOO BIG FOR YOU TO HANDLE HASN'T IT?
10

YES. THIS PROJECT IS GOING TO REQUIRE MORE MANPOWER THAN I CAN MUSTER.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING YOUR DEPARTMENT INTO THE CASE.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT QUITE A FEW SOLDIERS OF YOUR OWN, PARKER.
WHO ARE THEY?
SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED MY TEAM EARLIER, COMMISSIONER GORDON...
FBI AGENT MacDONALD
AGENT LEONARD
AGENT PERRY
AGENT STOUT
AGENT GREELEY
GLAD TO MEET YOU
SOUNDS TO ME THAT YOU'RE GOING TO NEED MORE HELP THAN EVEN MY DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE YOU
THIS IS NOT A WICKED CASE TO EMPLOY THE SERVICES OF YOUR PET VIGILANTE, IS IT?
I DON'T WANT THAT HOODLUM, BATMAN, INVOLVED WITH THIS CASE IN ANY WAY!
THE MAN KNOWS GOTHAM BETTER THAN ANYONE YOU'LL FIND...
I DON'T CARE!!
THEY'LL BE NO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL RUNNING AROUND MESSING UP THIS CASE!
I GUESS, IF THAT'S YOUR DECISION...

BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
A
BIG
MISTAKE
THERE'S NO PLACE IN THIS OPERATION FOR CRIMINAL ADVENTURERS. IF YOU...
I SENSE A LECTURE ON THE EVILS OF AMATEUR LAW ENFORCEMENT COMING ON.
I'LL BE BACK IN A WHILE.
WHERE YOU HEADING?
KNOWING THE FEDERAL NEED TO KNOW PARANOIA, I'M WILLING TO BET PARKER HASN'T CONTACTED JASON GREENE YET.
HE'S THE HEAD OF SECURITY ON ALL SIX PROJECTS IN GOTHAM CITY.
BRUCE WAYNE AND I BOTH KNOW HIM BECAUSE OF SOME MINOR WORK A WAYNE INDUSTRY DID FOR ONE OF HIS AGENCIES.
HE'S A GOOD MAN
USING HIS FILES WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE A PRETTY GOOD GUESS AT WHO ELSE IS ON THE KGBEAST'S HIT LIST.
YOU CONTINUE TO LISTEN IN ON THAT MEETING DOWNSTAIRS.
12

FURTHERMORE I THINK YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT MASKED MENACE IS REPREHENSIBLE. IF I...
DAY 4, 12:08 A.M. THE FEDERAL BUILDING, DOWNTOWN.
JASON GREENE USUALLY PUTS IN ABOUT THREE LATE NIGHTS A WEEK ON THE JOB.
HIS WIFE CONTINUOUSLY WARNS HIM ALL THAT OVERTIME WILL SEND HIM TO AN EARLY GRAVE.
HUH?

WHAT THE...
DAY 4. 12:28 A.M. OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL BUILDING.
THERE'S JASON GREENE'S OFFICE. STRAIGHT AHEAD. WILL HE BE IN THIS LATE?
WAIT!
SOMETHING... SOMEONE ON THE ROOF..
19

GOOD LORD!!
THAT'S JASON GREENE!
THE OTHER MAN...
...THE BEAST.
NO!
NOT GOING TO REACH HIM
ONLY ONE HOPE...

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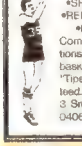

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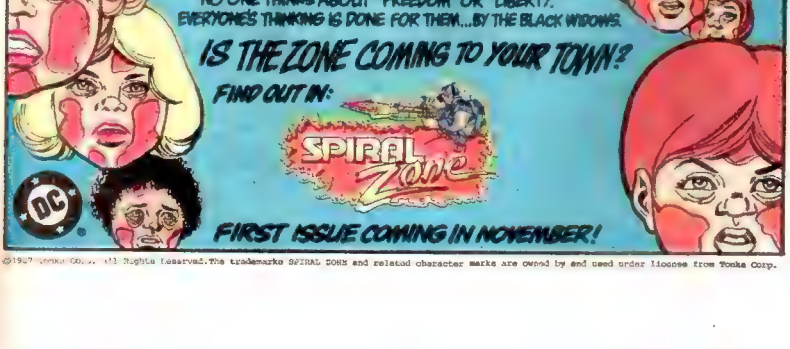
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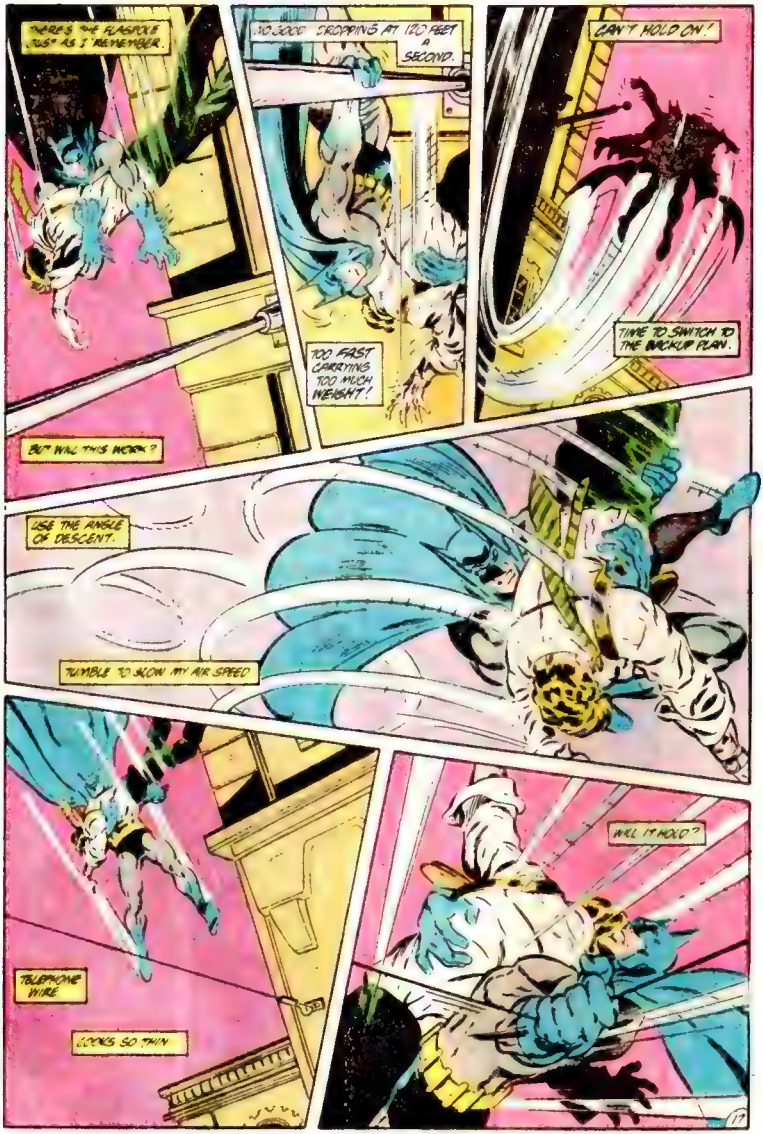
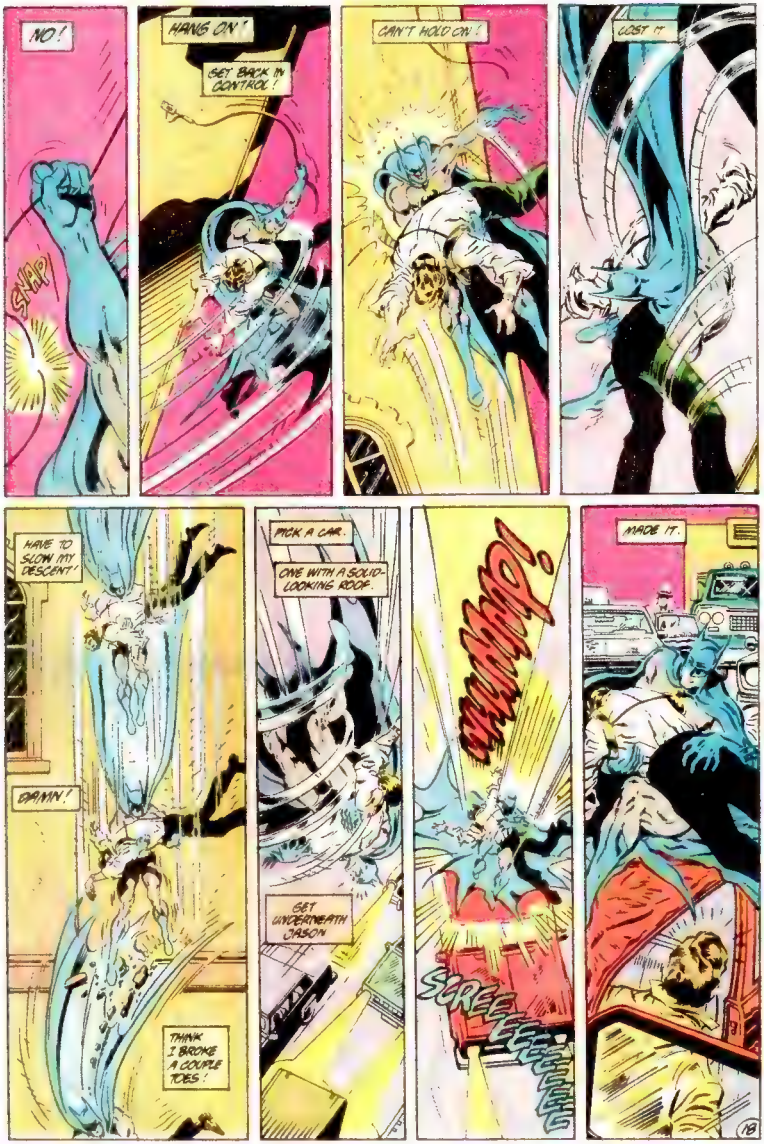

"HERE'S THE FLAGPOLE "OUS" AS I REMEMBER.
10,000 DROPPING AT 120 FEET A SECOND.
CAN'T HOLD ON!
TOO FAST CARRYING TOO MUCH WEIGHT!
TIME TO SWITCH TO THE BACKUP PLAN.
BUT WILL THIS WORK?
USE THE ANGLE OF DESCENT.
TUMBLE TO SLOW MY AIR SPEED.
WILL IT HOLD?
TELEPHONE WIRE
LOOKS SO THIN
17


NO!
SNAP
HANG ON!
GET BACK IN CONTROL!
CAN'T HOLD ON!
LOST IT
HAVE TO SLOW MY DESCENT
DAMN!
THINK I BROKE A COUPLE TOES!
PICK A CAR.
ONE WITH A SOLID-LOOKING ROOF.
SET UNDERNEATH JASON
KAMMMM
SCREEEEEEEEE
MADE IT.
18

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
JASON..
NO ANSWER.
DEAD
BROKEN NECK
PROBABLY HAD IT BEFORE HE WENT OFF THE ROOF.
JASON GREENE WAS A GOOD MAN.
I OWE YOU, BEAST
DAY 4, 12:15 A.M. GOTHAM CITY PARK.
YOU SURE HE SAID TO MEET YOU HERE?
WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
HE ASKED TO COME ALONG.
UNLIKE THE FBI, THE CIA'S USED TO DEALING WITH UNORTHODOX PEOPLE.
WHAT YOU GOT?

A LIST OF TEN PEOPLE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE KILLED TO CRIPPLE THE SDI PROGRAM.
THEY'RE ALL RESIDENTS OF GOTHAM OR WILL BE IN TOWN IN THE NEXT WEEK.
I GLEANED THEIR NAMES FROM GREENE'S HOME FILES.
THE BEAST DESTROYED THE ONES IN HIS OFFICE
WE'RE LUCKY GREENE WAS SUCH A CONSCIENTIOUS RECORD KEEPER
YEAH, I FIGURED THAT LAST NAME WOULD BE ON THE LIST. HE'S VISITING GOTHAM FRIDAY.
I WOULD SUGGEST YOU PLACE EVERYONE ON THAT LIST IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY IMMEDIATELY
THREE OF THOSE TEN PEOPLE ARE ALREADY DEAD
TOO BAD ABOUT GREENE GUESS HE WAS ON THIS LIST SO WE'D HAVE A HARD TIME FIGURING OUT WHO ELSE KNYAZEV WAS AFTER
YES, THIS IS A CLEVER BEAST WE'RE AFTER
ROBIN TELLS ME YOU KNOW WHO THE BEAST'S ASSISTANT IS.
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
NEVER MIND. I GOT A PICTURE OF HIM.
HIS NAME'S HASSAN SALARI, AN IRANIAN SHI'ITE TERRORIST.
WHY'S AN IRANIAN HELPING A RUSSIAN ASSASSIN?
DON'T KNOW. MAYBE HE WANTS A CRACK AT THAT LAST NAME ON YOUR LIST
THEN LET'S HOPE WE SHUT DOWN KNYAZEV'S OPERATION BEFORE FRIDAY.
20

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DAY 4. 12:48 A.M. LASER-TECH INC. GOTHAM CITY.
DENNIS KANE IS WORKING LATE TONIGHT ALSO, PREPARING FOR A SERIES OF TESTS HE PLANS TO RUN TOMORROW.
HE PAYS NO HEED TO THE JANITOR BEHIND HIM.
THAT'S A BIG MISTAKE
DAY 4. 1:33 A.M.
ELECTROCUTED, LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, I'D SAY.
DO WE HAVE THE REST OF THE NAMES ON THE LIST COVERED?
EVERYONE BUT THE MATH SCIENTIST, SILVIA BURROWS.
21

WE THINK SHE'S OUT WITH HER BOYFRIEND. DON'T KNOW HIS NAME.
WELL, FIND OUT WHO HE IS. I WANT EVERYONE ON THAT LIST UNDER PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.
THE LAST NAME ON THAT LIST IS STILL IN WASHINGTON
BET HE'S WELL-PROTECTED.
THEY PAY THOSE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS BIG BUCKS TO MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO THE PRESIDENT.
OCT 4, 3:42 A.M. GOTHAM.
HERE ARE THE ITINERARIES OF YOUR TARGETS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS
I SUPPOSE THEY'RE ALL UNDER HEAVY GUARD BY NOW?
EVERYONE EXCEPT SILVIA BURROWS. SHE'S AT A FRIEND'S. I'VE WRITTEN THE ADDRESS AT THE TOP OF THE PAPER
I'VE KEPT THIS INFORMATION FROM THE COMPETITION. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH HER BEFORE DAWN
NO PROBLEM
HE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, ROBIN. IT WON'T BE EASY FINDING HIM
HE'S A FACELESS PRO AND HAS OVER 10 MILLION PEOPLE TO HIDE AMONG.
HOW WE GOING TO PLAY IT THIS TIME?
THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE.
WE MAKE HIM COME TO US...
...AND HOPE WE SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE
TO BE CONTINUED

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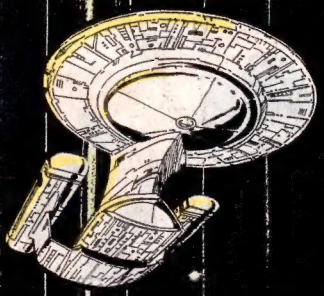

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